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### Microenterprise Capital Improvements Assistance Program

This program utilizes one-time federal stimulus funds to assist businesses with capital improvements. The purpose of this program is to preserve or create jobs by offsetting needed capital expenses through the disbursement of a total of \$49,000 of loans and grants to Brookline businesses. To qualify, a Brookline business must have five or fewer full time employees and be owned by income-qualified owners. Awards will be made on a rolling basis. For more information, contact [Kara Brewton](#).

[Application](#)

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### Commercial Storefront Vacancy Program

Support Our Commercial Areas! As described in the latest Update, Brookline's vacancy rate is healthy relative to the Boston metro area, but still a one percent increase from last year. The Economic Development Advisory Board is studying those commercial properties that have been vacant for more than a year to see if there are any regulatory barriers or other technical assistance that could help.

Here is how you can help:

1) [Shop Locally!](#) 68 cents of every dollar spent at a locally-owned business is returned to the community through taxes and other expenditures.

2) [Send us ideas!](#) Especially in those areas where you have seen persistent vacancies, let us know what kind of business you would like to see. Below are some ideas we have already heard.

**Circle Cinema / Cleveland Circle Area:**

"Community Theatre"

"Hotel"

**Brookline Village:**

"Green grocer"

"Gelato store"

**Washington Square:**

"Senior housing / assisted living"

**Route 9 near Reservoir Road:**

"High-end coffee store"

